signed the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism

(b) India shares a common concern with the countries of this region on the need lo combai terrorism, separatism and extremism. SCO is evolving and the principles and criteria relating to the admission of new members are being formulated.

Temples and gurdwaras in Pakistan

4177. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of maintaining of Hindu temples and Sikh Gurdwaras in Pakistan was taken up during the recent Pak Summit; and

(b) if so, what has been the reaction of Pakistani counterpart ?

THE MINISTEROF STATE INTHEMINISTRY OFEXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During his discussions with President Pervez Musharraf at the Agra Summit level talks (15th & 16th July, 2001), Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee raised the issue of upkeep of Sikh gurdwaras and Hindu temples in Pakistan, as well as the treatment of Indian pilgrims visiting shrines in Pakistan. He noted that the presence of known terrorists who have been allowed to stay in Sikh gurdwaras in Pakistan was a matter of grave concern to our nationals who practice the Sikh religion.

There has been no evidence of any change in Pakistan's approaches and policies towards India which has included the sponsorship of cross border terrorism and adversarial propaganda.

Press Conference by Musharraf

4178. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Musharraf s Press Conference at the Agra Summit was within the agreed norms of dialogue; and

(b) if so, the details of agreed norms ?

THEMINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFEXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government are of the view that India-Pakistan Summit level talks are opportunities to move our bilateral relations in